

ARROWS . . . IN THE HAND OF A MIGHTY MAN

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The following is from The Canadian Revivalist, November/December 1997 --

Psalm 127:4 clearly identifies the fact children are likened to "arrows." Those who have children must thankfully realize they are the heritage of the Lord. A million dollars could not buy a little child, although at times of exasperation parents might be tempted to give them away!

Let us consider for a moment why the arrow is an apt illustration of the child. And when we think of our children let us also think of the Sunday School, the Christian day school and the work among the young generally. One of the greatest dangers facing the Christian church today is that of Judges 2:10, when "there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord."

THE PRODUCTION OF THE ARROW

Arrows do not grow naturally in trees. They have to be cut and shaped for the archer. "Workmanship" must be expended on them. Christians do not grow naturally out of the sinful soil of humanity. They must be saved by the grace of God and straightened. Sin is crooked. Straight is holy. In Ephesians 2:10 Paul says, "we are His workmanship." The Lord must do a saving work in the heart of each child, and He has given us the great responsibility of leading them by lip and life to Christ.

THE PREPARATION OF THE ARROW

Arrows need to be polished for the best performance. Isaiah said the Lord made him "a polished shaft." When a child comes to Christ, our task then in the home, Sunday School and the Christian school is to educate, reform and refine them.

The "mighty man" of the Psalm has the "arrows" in his "hand." While we have our children with us we are to carefully polish them according to God's Word. That instruction must be the very best. Too many Christians are satisfied with mediocrity in this area of Christian life.

The polishing process is not something we can do overnight. Rather it is a patient discipline over many years but the results are worth the effort. Be fond, frank, fair, firm and faithful, and the Lord will give the blessing experienced by John, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John verse 4).

THE PATHWAY OF THE ARROW

The arrow is to be aimed at the target. "Man's chief end is to glorify God." That is the great target to which we are to aim our children. An arrow is also meant to destroy and cause havoc to the enemy. Likewise our children are to live to the glory of God and the defeat of the devil.

Each child leaving us will have an influence for either good or evil. Let us hold our bow firmly by the grace of God and do not allow the devil's wind to blow us off target. Remember how the unnamed archer shot an arrow "at a venture" and pierced the armour of the wicked king Ahab. May our children pierce the devil's defenses (1 Kings 22:34).

THE POWER OF THE ARROW

The arrows fly where the archer cannot. By the grace of God our children may accomplish for His glory what we cannot.

When Elisha told King Joash to shoot the "arrow of the Lord's deliverance" (2 Kings 13:14-19), the prophet put his hands on the king's hand as he fired. The king was strong and Elisha was weakened by his terminal illness, but the message was clear. Joash could only succeed by the power of the mediator.

The message is also clear to us. "Not by might or by power but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." Our children must go forth with the power of God upon them. Only then will they meet the target successfully and powerfully. May Christian parents send forth a barrage of blessed arrows (The Canadian Revivalist, November/December 1997, p. 16).